# Sir David Attenborough calls for urgent ocean protection ahead of new documentary release



Sir David Attenborough, the revered naturalist and broadcaster, recently conveyed his hopes to the Prince of Wales that his forthcoming documentary, *Ocean*, will catalyse a societal movement toward safeguarding the planet's seas. At a private screening, Attenborough expressed that the film aims to highlight the urgent threats facing our oceans, including rampant overfishing, pollution, and habitat destruction. “If this film does anything, if it just shifts public awareness, it will be very, very important,” he stated, emphasising the need for immediate action to preserve what he describes as “this great treasure.”

The documentary, which is set to be released globally on May 8, 2025—coinciding with Attenborough's 99th birthday—serves as both a celebration of marine beauty and a stark reminder of the devastation wrought by human activity. Scheduled to be available for streaming on platforms like Disney+ and Hulu starting June 8, 2025, *Ocean* is designed not only to inform but also to inspire viewers to reflect on the ocean's significance and the necessity of its protection.

During their conversation, filmed at the Royal Festival Hall, Attenborough and Prince William shared their optimism about the potential for discovering new life forms in marine ecosystems, despite the dire state of the oceans. Attenborough described his dismay at the damage done to the deep ocean floor, which many are unaware of. “What we have done to the deep ocean floor is just unspeakably awful,” he lamented. He believes that if similar activities were observed on land, public outcry would be immediate.

William, who has often praised Attenborough as an inspiration for his own environmental initiatives, is expected to amplify this message in his upcoming speech at the Blue Economy and Finance Forum in Monaco. He plans to call upon delegates, including world leaders such as France’s President Emmanuel Macron, to “think big in your actions” and act with both urgency and optimism.

Interestingly, *Ocean* is not just a documentary about despair but conveys a message of hope. It advocates for protecting 30% of the world’s marine areas by 2030, a goal known as 30×30, which aims to facilitate recovery for afflicted marine ecosystems. This aligns with broader conservation efforts highlighted by environmental advocates and organisations. With the United Nations Ocean Conference scheduled to take place in Nice, France, immediately after the documentary's release, there are heightened expectations that this film will influence global discourse on ocean conservation.

In a light-hearted moment during their exchange, Attenborough shared an anecdote about using early diving helmets, further illustrating his lifelong commitment to exploring and understanding the oceans. As the conversation drew to a close, the two figures acknowledged a shared commitment to fostering a new generation of ocean explorers, one that will engage with the sea’s mysteries and challenges with renewed enthusiasm.

The combined efforts of Attenborough and Prince William highlight a generational shift in environmental stewardship, with the baton of ocean conservation passing to new leaders who are committed to understanding and protecting these vital ecosystems.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/attenborough-tells-william-he-hopes-ocean-film-will-move-people-to-action-NGMIHGI4WVP7BOW3DH6GRFUYAA/), [[2]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/attenborough-tells-william-he-hopes-ocean-film-will-move-people-to-action-NGMIHGI4WVP7BOW3DH6GRFUYAA/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[3]](https://www.nationalgeographic.org/society/ocean-with-david-attenborough/), [[4]](https://www.greenpeace.org.au/article/ocean-david-attenborough-new-documentary/), [[5]](https://www.theguardian.com/film/2025/may/07/ocean-with-david-attenborough-review-a-passionate-case-against-the-ruination-of-the-seas)
* Paragraph 3 – [[6]](https://www.nationalgeographic.org/society/ocean-with-david-attenborough/), [[7]](https://www.greenpeace.org.au/article/ocean-david-attenborough-new-documentary/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/attenborough-tells-william-he-hopes-ocean-film-will-move-people-to-action-NGMIHGI4WVP7BOW3DH6GRFUYAA/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/attenborough-tells-william-he-hopes-ocean-film-will-move-people-to-action-NGMIHGI4WVP7BOW3DH6GRFUYAA/> - Sir David Attenborough has expressed to the Prince of Wales his hope that his new documentary, 'Ocean', will inspire society to take action before the oceans are irreparably harmed. The film highlights the severe threats facing the seas, including overfishing, pollution, and habitat destruction. Attenborough and Prince William share optimism about the potential for new discoveries in marine life, despite these challenges. The documentary aims to raise public awareness and drive change to protect the world's oceans.
3. <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/society/ocean-with-david-attenborough/> - 'Ocean with David Attenborough' is a documentary that showcases the beauty and importance of the sea, while also highlighting the detrimental effects of human activities. The film aims to inspire viewers to reflect on the ocean's significance and the urgent need for its protection. It is scheduled for global release on May 8, 2025, coinciding with Attenborough's 99th birthday, and will be available for streaming on Disney+ and Hulu starting June 8, 2025.
4. <https://www.greenpeace.org.au/article/ocean-david-attenborough-new-documentary/> - Greenpeace Australia Pacific highlights David Attenborough's latest documentary, 'Ocean with David Attenborough', which underscores the ocean's majesty and fragility. The film serves as a call to action, urging viewers to safeguard vital marine ecosystems. Its release is timed ahead of World Ocean Day on June 8, 2025, and the United Nations Ocean Conference in Nice, France, aiming to influence global leaders on ocean conservation.
5. <https://www.theguardian.com/film/2025/may/07/ocean-with-david-attenborough-review-a-passionate-case-against-the-ruination-of-the-seas> - The Guardian reviews 'Ocean with David Attenborough', praising the film as a passionate plea against the degradation of the seas. Released on Attenborough's 99th birthday, the documentary presents a compelling case against industrial overfishing and the destruction caused by mega-trawlers. It advocates for the establishment of 'no-take zones' to allow marine life to recover, emphasizing the urgency of protecting the oceans.
6. <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/society/ocean-with-david-attenborough/> - 'Ocean with David Attenborough' is a documentary that showcases the beauty and importance of the sea, while also highlighting the detrimental effects of human activities. The film aims to inspire viewers to reflect on the ocean's significance and the urgent need for its protection. It is scheduled for global release on May 8, 2025, coinciding with Attenborough's 99th birthday, and will be available for streaming on Disney+ and Hulu starting June 8, 2025.
7. <https://www.greenpeace.org.au/article/ocean-david-attenborough-new-documentary/> - Greenpeace Australia Pacific highlights David Attenborough's latest documentary, 'Ocean with David Attenborough', which underscores the ocean's majesty and fragility. The film serves as a call to action, urging viewers to safeguard vital marine ecosystems. Its release is timed ahead of World Ocean Day on June 8, 2025, and the United Nations Ocean Conference in Nice, France, aiming to influence global leaders on ocean conservation.